

Introduction

The Middle Peninsula encompasses 1,388 square miles known as Virginia's River Country, an area of countless waterways. The region is graced with small towns and villages having easy access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The rural character and rich history abound among closely-knit communities surrounded by working farms and forests. The region has a high quality of life with opportunities for water oriented living including the scenic beauty of the tidal marshes and wooded stream valleys dissecting every nook and cranny of land. Captain John Smith explored the Middle Peninsula, and Pocahontas is said to have lived here. Steeped in history, tourists journey to the region seeking historic villages and opportunities to live near the Chesapeake Bay.

The Middle Peninsula economy and recreational opportunities are dependent on the region's abundant natural resources. The region offers opportunities for both the commercial and recreational harvesting of fin-fish and shellfish. The construction and maintenance of both pleasure and workboats and the use of the waterways for transport and recreation are vital facets of the community. The region also has vast forests and sawmills producing pulp for industry. Tourism is one of the largest industries in the Middle Peninsula Planning District.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point and the centrally located Rappahannock Community College provide a resource base from which the region can address water-related and resource-related management issues. Both of these schools add to the knowledge about natural resources as well as provide seminars, classes and public information.

The Middle Peninsula Planning District is in the east-central Tidewater region of Virginia and includes nine local governments: the counties of Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews and Middlesex and the towns of Tappahannock, West Point and Urbanna. Region 18's northern border is the Rappahannock River; the Chesapeake Bay is on its eastern side; its southern border is the York River; and the western border is Caroline County. The district is largely rural, with thousands of acres of ecologically valuable tidal and non-tidal wetlands, forests, pastures, rivers, streams and embayments. The topography ranges from flat, level areas to gently rolling hills up to 200 feet above sea level.

Although Gloucester is in the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, it is also a member of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. For the purposes of this plan, Gloucester data and information will appear only in the Middle Peninsula region to avoid duplication.

The region's 2000 Census population was 83,684 people. The region's population grew by almost 15 percent during the last decade, which is just above the 14.4 percent statewide growth rate. Gloucester and King William counties have had the most significant changes in populations, followed by Essex and Middlesex. Middlesex County's population increases by three times its base rate of 9,932 between May and October due to the number of vacation and second homes located in this county. All four of these counties grew faster than the state average; most of the growth is a result of in-migration. Region 18's population is expected to grow to 100,100 by 2020, which represents a 16 percent increase in growth from 2005. Less than 4 percent of jobs are farm-related. Most residents who work are commuters who travel to the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions. Increasingly, Middle Peninsula pastoral images are giving way to development that is eroding the distinctive qualities that make the region unique. Commitment to resource-based tourism, public access to the area waterways and to the quality of life in the area will help maintain the character and the economic stability of the region.

Recommendations applicable to all regions are found in chapters III through IX. To meet needs established in the 2007 *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*, it is important to integrate these recommendations with those that follow for Region 18 into regional and local planning and development strategies.

Outdoor recreation

For a general discussion of outdoor recreation trends, issues and planning considerations in Virginia, see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues, Trends and Survey Findings, and Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Planning and Related Issues.

As indicated in the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS)*, the most popular outdoor activities in the

region are related to the use of water resources and beaches along with walking and bicycling trails (see Table X-18). Fishing ranked highest among the water-related recreation followed closely by swimming and boating. Respondents to the survey indicated that access to water was a definite need that is not being met adequately, especially with the numbers of tourists expected to increase. There is a similar deficiency in the number of trail miles available for walking, hiking, bicycling, jogging and horseback riding. In addition, public playgrounds, separate from those associated with local schools and public swimming pools, were listed as desired community amenities.

Small neighborhood parks, larger regional facilities and trails linking communities and water access points should be included in localities' plans to meet the outdoor recreational needs of residents. The 2006 VOS and inventory show a need for additional active recreation facilities, especially basketball courts, baseball fields and multipurpose fields for soccer and football. In addition, Region 18 remains an area where citizens are interested in hunting and off-road motorcycling, both of which require a large land base. Efforts to make lands available for off-road motorcycling and hunting should be pursued by interest groups and the localities.

Other areas of need for recreational activities include playgrounds, bicycle facilities, and access to water for boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. There is a particular interest in Region 18 to make additional beaches available to the public. Trails, blueways and greenways linking existing recreational, historic, cultural and natural resources could increase the number of miles of trails suitable for walking, bicycling and boating. Promoting and forming linkages between historical, scenic and cultural resources is important, as visiting historic sites is second in popularity to walking for pleasure.

Four of the six counties in the Middle Peninsula are served by a parks and recreation department. The town of Tappahannock does not have its own department, but it is served by the Essex County parks and recreation department. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, *Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures* (year ended June 30, 2005), per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Essex, \$17.80; Middlesex, \$2.08; Gloucester, \$22.58 and King William, \$22.99. This compares to a statewide per capita spending on parks and recreation of \$55.31, including \$85.51 from towns, \$43.75 from counties, and \$76.45 from cities.

Land conservation

A detailed discussion on statewide awareness of the need for conservation of farmland, parks, natural areas, and historical and cultural resources is found in Chapter III: Land Conservation. Conservation lands in the region are shown on Map 36.

Land Trusts Operating in Region 18

- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Friends of Dragon Run
- Mathews Land Conservancy
- Middle Peninsula Land Trust
- APVA Preservation Virginia
- The Nature Conservancy
- The 500-Year Forest Foundation

Land conservation recommendations include:

- Local regional and state agencies and organizations should obtain easements to buffer the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Local regional and state agencies and organizations should evaluate conservation measures for the Piankatank River to protect water quality and the health of adjacent riparian lands.

Green infrastructure

Information about green infrastructure is found in Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure. Regional recommendations for green infrastructure include:

- Local and regional agencies should become informed and educate constituents about green infrastructure planning, including guidance on local zoning initiatives for changing community design and transportation systems.
- Localities should work with the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission to form a regional partnership to address green infrastructure.
- The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission should pursue Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program support for green infrastructure initiatives for the region.

Programs

The following recommendations integrate statewide program initiatives into responsive regional strategies for outdoor recreation and conservation. The statewide program areas addressed in this section include: trails and greenways, blueways and water access, historic and landscape resources, scenic resources, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways, scenic rivers, water-sheds, environmental and land stewardship education, and the private sector. Recommendations are bulleted or numbered and are not sequenced by state or local priorities. Numbered recommendations are site specific to the regional map at the end of this section (see Map 37).

Trails and greenways

For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiatives, Greenways and Trails. Trail and greenway recommendations include:

- 1 Complete the **King and Queen County landfill trail** project.
- 2 Complete the **West Point trail**.
- 3 **Beaverdam Park** in Gloucester County has the potential for numerous trails, including horse and mountain bike trails. The park already has four trails totaling approximately nine miles.
- 4 Implement **Point Walk at Gloucester Point** as an interpretive trail featuring the natural, cultural and ecological significance of the area.

Water access

Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's Public Access Site Inventory was completed in 1999. This study identified 326 potential Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintained road termini (points), defined as any primary or secondary road that ends in or near proximity to any tributary that could yield access to public waters. The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) is in the process of prioritizing sites for public access and working to secure additional public access to water access sites throughout the region.

Water has always been key to life in Middle Peninsula, and water access should be a high priority for public acquisition. A discussion of the water access in the Commonwealth can be found in Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Water Access and Blueways. Water access recommendations include:

- Implement the Town of West Point water access plans.
- Public fishing lakes in each county are needed to meet the demand for freshwater fishing in this region.

Water access recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should establish cooperative agreements among localities, other agencies and private landowners to meet the increasing need for public access to recreational waters.
- Regional and local agencies should identify strategies to make additional waterfront resources available for public use.
- Regional and local agencies should provide adequate support facilities and services, such as restrooms, concessions, parking and maintenance for existing and proposed public water and beach access areas.
- Regional and local agencies should acquire or maintain access to existing public beaches and water access sites that may be jeopardized by changes in land use or development activities.
- VDOT and local government should expand public access to water by developing parking and launch facilities at bridge crossings.
- 5 Local and regional agencies and organizations should support development of the **Algonquin Trace Water Trail** on the York River.
- 6 Local and regional agencies and organizations should support the development of **Gloucester water trails**.
- 7 Local and regional agencies and organizations should continue support for the **King and Queen County Heritage gateways and trails**.
- 8 Local and regional agencies and organizations should support the development of trails by the Friends of the Dragon along **Dragon Run**.

- 9 Local and regional agencies and organizations should continue support for the **Mattaponi and Pamunkey rivers water trails** to be connected with York River water trails.

The lower Pamunkey River was recognized along with the Mattaponi as an American Canoe Association Recognized Water Trail in 2006. Established by the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association, the water trail along these two tributaries of Virginia's York River features some of the last pristine fresh water paddling on the Atlantic seaboard.

- 10 Local and regional agencies and organizations should support the system of **water trails in Mathews County**.
- 11 Local and regional agencies and organizations should provide canoe and kayak access at the **Route 17 bridge over Dragon Run**.
- 12 Local and regional agencies and organizations should provide improved public access at the **Poropotank River**.
- 13 Local and regional agencies and organizations should support development of the **Tappahannock Waterfront Park**.
- 14 While there have been many changes to **Gloucester Point Beach** over the last few years, the potential remains for additional improvements. Gloucester County should expand boating and fishing access at this park.
- 15 Local and regional agencies and organizations should consider a **public beach** acquisition at the mouth of the **Poropotank River**.
- 16 VDOT and the local government should consider development of two access points on VDOT lands on the **Pamunkey River** for car top boat launching and crabbing.
- 17 Mathews County should develop boat access to the Mathews County Court House on the headwaters of **East Creek**.

Chesapeake Bay Gateways

The National Park Service (NPS) coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program (<http://www.baygateways.net>) to promote a historic and environmental focus on water access. Designated Chesapeake Bay Gateways in the Middle Peninsula include:

- Mathews County Visitor and Information Center
- James Mills Scottish Factor Store
- Pamunkey Indian Reservation
- Gloucester Point
- York River Water Trail
- Mathews Blueways Water Trail

Historic and landscape resources

Consideration should be given to evaluating potential historic and landscape recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Historic and Landscape Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should identify historic and archaeological resources that can be used for tourism, recreation and education. These resources should be included in local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region to include the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, APVA Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.
- Regional and local agencies should encourage local governments and private organizations that own historic properties in the region to manage properties effectively for long-term protection and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- Regional and local agencies should recognize the multiple historic and cultural resources within the rural landscape through rural historic districts.
- Regional and local agencies should support the creation of other heritage area programs to promote tourism and preservation in distinctive regions.

- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the county-wide surveys of historic and architectural resources in Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews and Middlesex counties.
- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the critical need for archaeological surveys in Mathews and Middlesex counties, as well as for assessment of archaeological resources in those two counties.
- State, regional and local agencies and organizations should partner to provide updated interpretive panels and walkways at Tyndall's Point explaining the significance of the Revolutionary and Civil wars.
- Local governments should incorporate the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail into local comprehensive plans as a way to further heritage and ecotourism in the region.

Scenic resources

Consideration should be given to potential scenic recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, greenways and scenic rivers to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.
- Regional and local agencies should protect the scenic value of lands adjacent to publicly owned properties, as well as the scenic value of working agricultural and forestal areas key to maintaining a sense of place and economic vitality of the region. Scenic attributes to be considered include:
 - Consider timber harvesting impacts on key viewsheds.
 - Protect viewsheds along river corridors and scenic byways.
 - Consider scenic views along Virginia byways and scenic highways to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- Regional and local agencies and organizations should assess scenic assets for this region to determine appropriate protection strategies.
- Local government should retain cultural landscapes and views along water bodies throughout the region.

- Regional and local agencies and organizations should protect the unique scenic beauty of the Middle Peninsula landscape by managing growth to respect the cultural heritage and landscapes that create a unique sense of place.

Scenic highways and Virginia byways

Opportunities to traverse Virginia's scenic and cultural landscapes are enhanced through nationally recognized designation. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways.

Scenic roads recommendations for the region include:

- Regional and local agencies should recognize and nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia byways.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to develop corridor management plans to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should incorporate Virginia byways and scenic highways into local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure viewsheds are conserved and the sense of place retained along these corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should support designation of nationally qualified historic corridors to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.
- The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and VDOT should evaluate the roads accessing the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge for their scenic qualities once a request is received from the local government.
- DCR and VDOT should evaluate Route 30 from West Point to Barnhamsville to Williamsburg for scenic qualities once a request is received from the local government.
- DCR and VDOT should evaluate Route 14 from Shacklefords to Adner in lower King and Queen County once a request is received from the local government.

The following road segments are potential Virginia Byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:

- Local regional and state agencies and organization should designate and interpret the John Smith Capture Route with signage as a driving trail high-

lighting historical points of interest related to Captain John Smith's adventures in the Middle Peninsula.

- 18** DCR and VDOT should evaluate **state Route 17** in Gloucester for scenic qualities once a request is received from the local government.

Scenic rivers

In Region 18 there are currently no designated scenic river segments.

For detailed information about the Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program and its purpose, benefits and designation process, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiative, Scenic Rivers.

The following river segments qualify for designation as Virginia Scenic Rivers:

- 19** The **Mattaponi River** from Monday Bridge (Route 628) to the Walkerton Bridge (Route 629) in King and Queen and King William counties.
- 20** **Dragon Run** from its headwaters in Essex County and King and Queen County to the Piankatank River in Middlesex County and Gloucester County
- 21** The **Pamunkey River** from Route 614 to the Pampatike Landing in King William County.
- 22** The **Piankatank River** from Route 17 to the Chesapeake Bay in Middlesex, Gloucester and Mathews counties.
- The following river segments are potential Virginia Scenic Rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:
- 23** The **Mattaponi River** in King William County and King and Queen County from Route 628 to Monday Bridge and from Aylett to West Point.
- 24** The **Rappahannock River** from the Westmoreland County-King George County line to the Chesapeake Bay.
- 25** The **Pamunkey River** from the King William County-Caroline County line to Route 614 and from Pampatike Landing to the York River.
- 26** The **York River** from West Point to the Chesapeake Bay.
- 27** The **Ware River** in Gloucester County.

- 28** The **Poropotank River** along the eastern boundary of King and Queen and Gloucester counties.

Watershed resources

Region 18 is included in both the York watershed and the Rappahannock watershed. Small coastal basins in the region include the Mobjack, Ware, Severn, North and East rivers as well as Dragon Run and Piankatank River. For information about Virginia's watershed programs, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Virginia's Watershed Programs. Watershed recommendations for this region include:

Watershed groups in Region 18

- Dragon Run Steering Committee
- Friends of Dragon Run
- Friends of Urbanna Creek
- Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
- Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers Association
- Save the Old Piankatank

Environmental and land stewardship education

St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock hosts the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's course entitled "Teachers on the Bay" each summer. The Browne Tract in Essex and King and Queen counties also offers environmental education opportunities. For detailed information on Environmental and Land Stewardship education, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Environmental and Land Stewardship Education. Environmental and land stewardship recommendations for this region include:

- Develop cooperative partnerships with federal and state outdoor recreation providers to offer educational outreach to serve the localities and region.

Federal programs

For information on federal programs affecting Virginia's outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, see Chapter IX-A: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency.

National parks

- Local and regional government, user groups and nonprofits should work with the NPS to revise policy, in order to allow mountain bikes to use appropriate national park trails.
- Local, regional and state agencies and organizations should continue collaborative efforts through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Program to connect people to heritage, outdoor recreation, and educational opportunities and resources.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

29 USFWS should continue to develop outdoor recreation and outreach education opportunities at the **Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge** (NWR). The Rappahannock River Valley NWR was established in 1996 to protect outstanding fish and wildlife habitat in and along the river. A two-year effort began in April 2006 to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for the Rappahannock River Valley NWR. This plan coordinates with ongoing programs and regional initiatives to link regional opportunities. USFWS set a refuge land protection goal of 20,000 acres in seven counties, flanking both sides of the river from Skinners Neck south to Belle Isle State Park. As of 2005, the USFWS had acquired nearly 8,000 acres from willing sellers, including 1,400 acres under conservation easement.

State facilities and programs

For a discussion of state facilities and programs throughout the entire Commonwealth, see Chapter IX-B: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency or program.

State parks

30 **Middle Peninsula State Park** (438 acres) in Gloucester County on the York River, has been acquired for development as a new state park. This region has been recommended as a location for a state park since the 1965 plan. Additional acreage, from a willing seller or donor, is still needed to enhance the resources of the current site. Before any facility development can occur on the site, a master plan is needed. In addition, funding is necessary to implement development and to staff and operate the park.

Opportunities exist for this state park site to provide access or links to various regional trail initiatives along the York River such as the Captain John Smith Water Trail and other land-based initiatives.

The need exists for additional parkland and water access in this region of the state. Potential acquisitions should be explored in the vicinity of Lagrange Creek and the Rappahannock River in Middlesex County and eastward into Mathews County.

State natural area preserves

The two natural area preserves in Region 18 are Bethel Beach and New Point Comfort. Both are in Mathews County.

The DCR has, as of November 2006, documented 217 occurrences of 56 rare species and natural communities in the Middle Peninsula Planning District. Eleven species are globally rare and four are federally threatened or endangered. One hundred seven conservation sites have been identified in the district. Twenty-five sites (23 percent) have received some level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. Only three sites are protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities they support.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Within Region 18, DCR is particularly interested in:

- Protecting sandy beach habitats that support threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle.
- Protecting bald eagle nesting habitat.
- Protecting wetlands that support rare animal and plant species.
- Continuing to pursue the conservation of lands along Dragon Run.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

- VMRC should continue promotion of saltwater recreational fishing opportunities in the Commonwealth through continued construction of new reef sites and augmentation of existing artificial fishing reef sites.
- VMRC should increase public access sites to salt water.

State forests

- Local and regional agencies should encourage the use of Department of Forestry (DOF) Best Management Practices in floodplain forest areas, particularly those adjacent to state-designated scenic waterways.

- Local and regional agencies should use DOF properties as field classrooms to help with educational programs.
 - Local and regional agencies should coordinate with DOF and seek the assistance of local trail and river user organizations to develop forest trails and publish maps for each state forest, as well as establish greenways and blueways for public use.
 - Local and regional agencies should investigate opportunities to acquire fee simple ownership or easements to conserve working farms and forests in the region.
 - Local and regional agencies should work with DOF to create defensible space around buildings to reduce the risk of wild fires through the DOF Fire Wise Program.
 - Localities should work with DOF on education and monitoring of tree diseases and other pests that could weaken the forested environments.
 - Local, state and regional agencies and organizations should target agricultural lands for reforestation to protect the water quality of the area and limit the effects of erosion on these lands.
 - DOF should continue negotiations for The Nature Conservancy land to be transferred to state forest and evaluate these lands for potential recreation opportunities.
- 31 DOF should support recreational access, trails and water access at the **Browne Tract** and the **Browne State Forest**.

The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPA) purchased the Browne Tract, a 274-acre site, to protect coastal resources and provide public access within the Dragon Run watershed. The MPCBPA will manage 137 acres straddling the boundaries of Essex and King and Queen counties, while DOF will manage the remaining 137 acres in Essex County. The recreational use zones will geographically separate activities that have high potential for conflict and limit recreational access to conservation areas. The existing trail networks will be expanded and include a footbridge across the Dragon Run. Interpretive and directional signage will guide and educate visitors. Larger resource protection zones and special management areas will demonstrate best management practices for timber management and conservation of natural resources. Forested buffers will be retained in riparian areas, creating wildlife corridor habitat protection.

32 **Sandy Point State Forest** is approximately 2,000 acres and is in King William County. More than 15 miles of graveled or dirt roads provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, nature study and hunting throughout the forest. In addition, there is approximately 3.5 miles of frontage on the Mattaponi River, offering opportunities for water access and boating. DOF should expand recreational opportunities, road improvements for year-round vehicular access to boating, and water related activities at Sandy Point State Forest.

33 DOF should continue development of a demonstration model farm, improve hunting and fishing opportunities, and expand conservation and passive recreational activities at **Zoar State Forest**.

Other state lands

For a discussion of other state lands, see Chapter IX-C: Resource Agencies.

The following state-owned lands contain significant undeveloped open space that may have some potential for local recreational use. Each site should be assessed and, where appropriate, a cooperative agreement should be developed to make these resources available for local use as parks and open space.

34 **Rappahannock Community College**, south campus in Gloucester County, has 199 acres of land. The community college should evaluate these lands for recreational potential.

35 The **Virginia Institute of Marine Science** should evaluate shoreline for opportunities for access to the water, as well as consider opportunities for special interpretive and environmental education programs.

Transportation programs

- Local and regional agencies should develop alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints.
- Local and regional agencies should work with VDOT to implement Context Sensitive Solutions that accommodate multiple transportation modes.
- Local and regional agencies should recognize the need for a network of low-speed, low-volume road-

ways used by equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists, and they should include protections for this network in their comprehensive plan.

- Local and regional agencies should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating the recommendations of local public health agencies, and they should include “active living” opportunities into all phases of transportation planning, land use planning and project design.
- State regional and local agencies and organizations should support the Town of Urbanna and Town of West Point alternative transportation initiatives.
- VDOT should expand bike routes with safe standards.

Local and regional parks and recreation departments

For a discussion of local and regional parks and recreation departments, see Chapter IX-D: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Local agencies and organizations should explore reclamation of abandoned landfills into new and needed parks.
- Local governments and agencies should consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands in order to increase local access and meet outdoor recreation needs.
- Local and regional parks and recreation agencies and organizations should work with the planning district commission and the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority to identify and develop regionally significant parklands to sup-

plement the state and federal lands providing public recreation and natural resource protection.

- 36 Local and regional parks and recreation agencies and organizations should consider development of a community park in the **Town of West Point**.

- 37 Local and regional parks and recreation agencies and organizations should consider development of a **regional park in Gloucester County** to include soccer fields, a swimming pool and other amenities.

Private sector

Much of the demand for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. For a discussion of the private sector, see Chapter IX-E: Resource Agencies. The following recommendations pertain to this region:

- The private sector should become involved in the planning and development of water trails.
- The private sector should support water-based recreation.
- The private sector should support and maintain cultural sites that are vital to the local economy.
- The private sector should provide marinas and boat storage areas.
- The private sector should provide water oriented bed and breakfasts, restaurants and other accommodations and attractions, especially those that can be reached by water.
- The private sector should provide guide services for fishing and hunting.
- The private sector should provide rental of water sports equipment.



Kayaking on the Mattaponi. Photo by Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

Table X-18. Region 18 (Middle Peninsula Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball	143,249	28	fields	14	14	18
Basketball	164,471	39	goals	11	28	33
Bicycling	238,748	17	miles	NI		
Mountain	37,139	3	miles	NI		
Other	201,609	14	miles	NI		
Lake, river and bay use (combined)	1,266,688	20,432	water acres	166,718	-146,286	-143,589
Power boating	564,152	13,597	water acres	S		
Sailing	84,888	735	water acres	S		
Saltwater fishing	440,357	2,477	water acres	S		
Jet ski, personal watercraft	123,353	1,933	water acres	S		
Water skiing, towed on water	53,939	1,690	water acres	S		
Camping	121,231	715	sites	3,954	-3,239	-3,145
Tent camping	46,335	273	sites	236	37	73
Developed camping	74,896	442	sites	3,718	-3,276	-3,218
Fitness trail use	53,939	4	mile trails	1	3	4
Fields (combined)	249,359	52	fields	16	36	43
Football	82,235	17	fields	16	1	4
Soccer	167,123	35	fields	-	35	40
Stream use (combined)	351,401	165	stream miles	147	18	40
Freshwater fishing	185,339	130	stream miles	S		
Human-powered boating	101,866	26	stream miles	S		
Rafting	4,068	1	stream miles	S		
Tubing	60,129	8	stream miles	S		
Golfing	168,450	6	courses	63	2	3
Hiking, backpacking	105,049	54	trail miles	17	37	44
Horseback riding	31,302	14	miles	4	10	11
In-line skating	6,720	0	miles	NI		
Jogging, running	438,588	35	mile trails	NI		
Nature study, programs	38,730	6	sites	-	6	6

Note: Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

NA: not applicable, no standard needed

S: same as combined

NS: not inventoried separately

NI: not inventoried

(-) indicates surplus

Table X-18. Region 18 (Middle Peninsula Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs – continued

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Picnicking away from home	116,721	303	tables	827	-524	-484
Skateboarding	31,833	10	sites	NI		
Snow skiing or snowboarding	22,283	1	ski lifts	-	1	1
Softball	97,268	17	fields	14	3	6
Sunbathing, relaxing on beach	387,302	28	beach acres	21	7	10
Swimming	884,250	65		NI		
Outdoor area	513,749	53	beach acres	21	32	39
Outdoor pools	250,243	11	pools	19	-8	-7
Indoor pools	120,258	1	pools	1	0	1
Tennis	44,213	28	courts	33	-5	-2
Used a playground	191,882	27	sites	13	14	18
Visiting gardens	41,648	5	sites	NI		
Visiting historic sites	105,403	9	sites	NI		
Visiting natural areas	175,435	30	sites	NI		
Volleyball	89,663	27	courts	2	25	28
Hunting	204,262	33,497	acres	2,495	31,002	35,424
Drive for pleasure	627,110	NA	NA	NI		
Driving motorcycle off road	41,383	19	miles	1	18	20
Driving 4-wheel-drive off road	19,896	NA	NA	NS		
Walking for pleasure	2,737,638	NA	NA	NI		
Bird watching	84,004	NA		NI		
Other	28,473	NA	NA	NI		

Note: Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

NA: not applicable, no standard needed

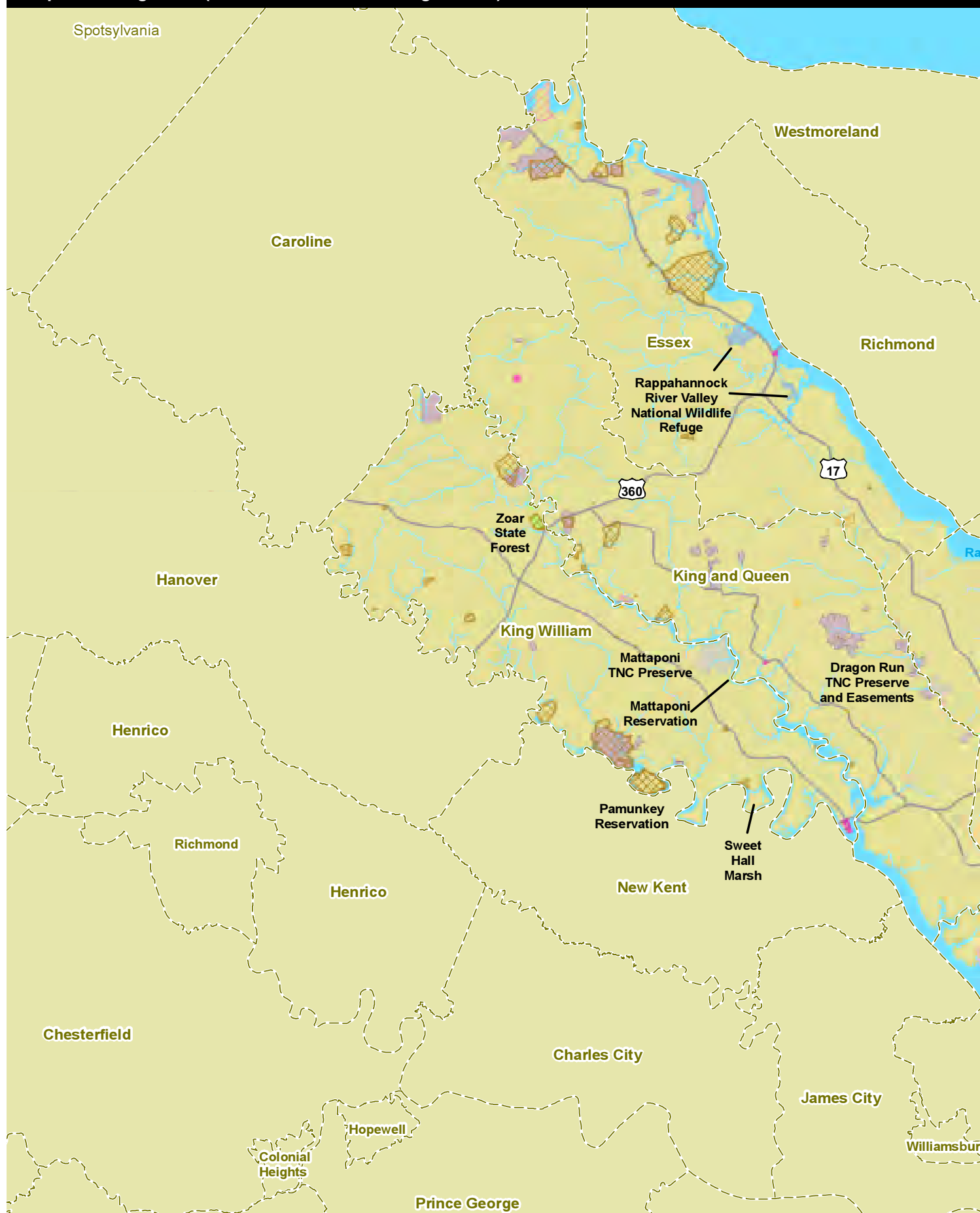
S: same as combined

NS: not inventoried separately

NI: not inventoried

(-) indicates surplus

Map X-36. Region 18 (Middle Peninsula Planning District) Conservation Lands





Map X-37. Region 18 (Middle Peninsula Planning District) Outdoor Recreation

